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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Bill
4 Rucks, former head coach of the Mount Pulaski High School
5 basketball team; and

6 WHEREAS, Coach Rucks taught grade school in Mount Pulaski
7 for more than 30 years and was involved with the Hilltoppers
8 basketball program for many years more as an assistant coach to
9 hall of fame head coach Ed Butkovich for 26 years, as head
10 coach from 1996 to 2002, and again as assistant coach under
11 coach Ryan Deibert; and

12 WHEREAS, Coach Rucks graduated from Waukegan High School in
13 1972 and played basketball at the University of Illinois
14 Urbana-Champaign from 1973 to 1976, where he was the school's
15 first 7-foot player; and

16 WHEREAS, Coach Rucks went 83 and 77 in the 6 seasons he
17 served as head coach for the Hilltoppers and is remembered by
18 those he worked with for having a unique sense of humor that
19 was able to teach his students what they needed to learn; and

20 WHEREAS, Coach Rucks spent the last years of his life in a
21 motorized wheelchair, yet he did not allow that to prevent him

1 from being as active as possible in the Mount Pulaski
2 community; and

3 WHEREAS, Coach Rucks was known as a fiercely loyal Illini
4 fan and even more loyal and devoted to his family; and

5 WHEREAS, Coach Rucks was seen by many as a role model,
6 teacher, coach, and friend whose impact on the Mount Pulaski
7 community will live on for years to come; and

8 WHEREAS, Coach Rucks is survived by his wife, Janet Rucks;
9 his daughter, Kristin Rucks-Smith, Athletic Director at Mount
10 Pulaski Elementary School; and his siblings, Jim Rucks, Tom
11 Rucks, Renee Sams, Richard Rucks, Pete Rucks, Mary Gray, and
12 Becky Belmont; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 mourn the death of Coach Bill Rucks of Mount Pulaski and extend
16 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all those
17 in the Mount Pulaski community whose lives were impacted by
18 him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Bill Rucks as an expression of our
21 deepest sympathy.